

## CLAIMS

1. A process for the production of microcapsules containing a drug, characterised by the following steps:
  - a. coating drug microparticles with a layer of ethylcellulose
  - 5 b. further coating the product of a. with a layer of an acrylic polymer
2. A process according to claim 1, where the coating in step a. is applied by phase separation microencapsulation or by fluidized bed coating.
3. A process according to claims 1-2, where the coating in step b. is applied by spraying a solution or suspension of acrylic polymer onto the particles obtained in  
10 a., suspended in a fluidised bed.
4. A process according to claim 3, where said solution or suspension is a hydroalcoholic solution, comprising the following weight percentages of components, calculated with respect to the total weight of the solution:
  - acrylic polymer: 4-20%
  - 15 - alcohol: 30-94%
  - water: 0-40%
  - micronised inorganic material: 2-20%
5. A process according to claim 3, where said hydroalcoholic solution or suspension comprises the following weight percentages of components, calculated  
20 with respect to the total weight of the solution:
  - acrylic polymer: 7-20%
  - alcohol: 40-75%
  - water: 10-35%
  - micronised inorganic material: 5-9%
- 25 6. A process according to claims 4-5, where said alcohol is ethanol, and said inorganic material is talc.
7. A process according to claims 1-6, where the product of step a. has a drug / ethylcellulose weight ratio (phase ratio) comprised between 1:1 and 30:1, and the product of step b. has an acrylic polymer content comprised between 5% and  
30 40% by weight .
8. A process according to claim 1-6, where the product of step a. has a drug / ethylcellulose weight ratio (phase ratio) comprised between 3:1 and 15:1, and the

product of step b. has an acrylic polymer content comprised between 10% and 25% by weight.

9. A process according to claims 1-8, where the taste-masked microcapsules obtained in step b. have a weight median diameter comprised between 20 and 800  $\mu\text{m}$ , preferably 100 - 400  $\mu\text{m}$ , drug potency comprised between 400 and 950 mg/g, and are capable of releasing at least 80% of the drug contained therein within 30 minutes preferably within 10 minutes in a aqueous acidic media.

10. Microcapsules containing a drug, obtainable by the process described in claims 1-9.

10 11. Microcapsules according to claim 10, formulated in a pharmaceutical administrable form.

12. Microcapsules according to claim 11, wherein said pharmaceutical administrable form is chosen from dry powders for extemporaneous suspensions, tablets, minitables, microcapsule-containing capsules, monodose sachets, fast  
15 disintegrating tablets, syrups.

13. Microcapsules according to claims 10-12, wherein said drug is chosen from penicillins, cephalosporins, carbapenem, penems, penams, aminoglycosides, macrolides, ketolides, tetracyclines, quinolones.